

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SS-15

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DRAFTED BY ARA:NC:MCFORRESTER

22747 7/13/73

APPROVED BY ARA:NC - MR. LITTLE

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS NIACT IMMEDIATE

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FOR: DCM DEVINE

TAGS: BDIS PINT VE OTRA

SUBJECT: AUTOMATIC VOTING MACHINES CONTRACT

REF: CARACAS 4968

1. NEWLY APPOINTED GENERAL COUNSEL FOR AVM, SAMUEL K. MCCUNE, OF KIRKPATRICK, LOCKHART, JOHNSON AND HUCHISON IN PITTSBURGH AND MR. MITCHELL ROGOVIN, AVM SPECIAL COUNSEL OF THE WASHINGTON FIRM ARNOLD AND PORTER, MET THIS AFTERNOON WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HURWITCH AND REPRESENTATIVES FROM NC AND L. IN ADDITION TO REVIEWING AVM'S PROBLEMS IN VENEZUELA ROGOVIN AND MCCUNE MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS: MCCUNE PLANS TO LEAVE FOR CARACAS VIA PANAM TOMORROW, JULY 14, TO ENGAGE THE SERVICES OF A VENEZUELAN COUNSEL (A) TO REPRESENT AVM IN RECLAIMING \$10 MILLION THAT IT HAS INVESTED IN RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER EXPENSES AND (B) TO RESPOND TO AN INVITATION RECEIVED BY CABLE TODAY (TEXT BEING TRANSMITTED SEPARATELY) FROM VENEZUELAN ATTORNEY GENERAL TO AVM PRESIDENT TO APPEAR IN CARACAS TUESDAY, JULY 17, TO REPAY GOV ITS \$2.8 MILLION DOWN PAYMENT UNDER VOTING MACHINE

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CONTRACT. MCCUNE EXPRESSED TO HURWITCH SOME TREPIDATION

ABOUT THE GOV PREVENTING HIS DEPARTURE FROM VENEZUELA IN THAT HE, RATHER THAN AVM PRESIDENT, WILL APPEAR AND SECONDLY, THAT HE IS NOT PREPARED TO RETURN VENEZUELA'S DOWN PAYMENT. MCCUNE IS NOT AN OFFICER OF AVM.

2. MCCUNE AND ROGOVIN INQUIRED AS TO THE POSSIBLE INVOCATION OF THE HICKENLOOPER AMENDMENT SINCE THEY HAVE SO FAR BEEN UNABLE TO OBTAIN THE SERVICES OF VENEZUELAN LEGAL COUNSEL. THEY STATED THAT IN VENEZUELA'S CHARGED POLITICAL AMBIANCE, IT APPEARS THAT NO LEGAL FIRM MAY WANT TO HANDLE THE CASE; CERTAINLY NOT BEFORE THE ELECTIONS.

3. MCCUNE IS TRAVELLING WITH HIS WIFE, BARBARA AND WILL STAY AT THE HOTEL TAMANACO, AND WILL CALL DCM DEVINE OR ACTING ECONOMIC COUNSELOR GEORGE FALK SUNDAY MORNING. IN ANY EVENT, MCCUNE WILL CALL ON DCM DEVINE FIRST THING MONDAY MORNING.

4. PER DEVINE/LITTLE TELCON, MCCUNE WILL APPRECIATE ADVICE THIS EVENING RE ADVISABILITY HIS PROCEEDING TO VENEZUELA TOMORROW. RUSH

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